

March 22, 2011

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

My name is Marguerite DiMarco and I am a junior in the Killingly High School agriscience program in Dayville. I live in Plainfield and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I want to excel in my skills to the max and improve my future. My life dream is to become a Veterinarian some day and by going to this school I am able to fulfill that dream. I have grown up loving animals and what better way to express that than an Agricultural School such as this. From being in this school, I have joined the FFA, which not many schools offer besides Agricultural. This is an honorable placement to be in such a group. I am able to travel to other towns, go to conventions, and be the best I truly can be. I have the privilege to be a part of the Animal science program. In order to be able to go to this school, I have to bring myself to a higher level than the average student. I have to have, what we call, an SAE. Mine is life changing, I work with disabled children in therapeutic riding lessons. With this, I both help these children and myself for the future. I learn dedication, responsibility, respect, how to listen and learn new things. From being challenged, I have put myself even further to what I can do. Just last year I have opened up an egg business at home. I have raised my chickens from chicks and have nourished them to where I am happily selling farm fresh eggs to friends and family. This year I have improved to where I am selling them to my parents' coworkers and fellow employees. I know I have made the right choice to enter myself into this school, for I am experiencing many amazing things, learning about agriculture, and I love every moment of it.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to Pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically under funded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

